



STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION
RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING 90 YEARS OF
U.S.-POLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

SENATOR RICHARD G. LUGAR
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

January 7, 2009

Mr. President, I rise today to offer a resolution commemorating several remarkable milestones in the U.S.-Poland partnership. This year marks the 90th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Poland, the 50th anniversary of the Fulbright Exchange Program with Poland, and the 10th anniversary of Poland's accession to NATO.

The U.S.-Polish friendship formally began in 1919 and has endured through two world wars, the Cold War, and the emergence of a vibrant democracy after the fall of communism. This partnership has been bolstered by two unqualified successes of U.S. diplomacy. The Fulbright Exchange Program has nurtured the pursuit of higher learning for Polish and American students, professors, and researchers, for many decades offering Poles a rare window into the opportunities afforded by democratic society. Such exchanges invigorated intellectual thought and creativity in Poland, Eastern Europe, and the West and helped to hasten the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact.

Poland exhibited great energy in undertaking economic, political, and military reforms, and the NATO alliance was strengthened by Polish membership in 1999. Poland today remains the closest of our allies, having contributed great wherewithal to combating global terrorism and bringing stability to Afghanistan and Iraq. In recognition of the profound successes of the U.S.-Polish alliance, I am pleased to introduce this resolution congratulating the Polish people on their great accomplishments as a free democracy and expressing our country's appreciation for Poland's steadfast partnership.

I am hopeful that my colleagues will join me in supporting this important legislation.

Thank you and I yield the floor.



111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

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Commemorating 90 years of U.S.-Polish diplomatic relations, during which Poland has proven to be an exceptionally strong partner to the United States in advancing freedom around the world.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

submitted the following resolution; which was referred
to the Committee on

RESOLUTION

Commemorating 90 years of U.S.-Polish diplomatic relations, during which Poland has proven to be an exceptionally strong partner to the United States in advancing freedom around the world.

Whereas the United States established diplomatic relations with the newly-formed Polish Republic in April 1919;

Whereas the year 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of democracy in Poland, as well as the 20th anniversary of the fall of communism in Poland;

Whereas the year 2009 marks the 10th anniversary of Poland's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

Whereas the year 2009 marks the 50th anniversary of the Fulbright Educational Exchange Program in Poland;

Whereas Poland has overcome a legacy of foreign occupation and period of communist rule to emerge as a free and democratic nation;

Whereas Poland has strongly supported the United States diplomatically and militarily, as well as supporting United States-led efforts in combating global terrorism, and has contributed troops to the coalitions led by the United States in both Afghanistan and Iraq; and

Whereas Poland has cooperated closely with the United States on issues such as democratization, nuclear proliferation, human rights, regional cooperation in Eastern Europe, and reform of the United Nations: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) celebrates the 90th anniversary of U.S.-Pol-
3 ish diplomatic relations;

4 (2) congratulates the Polish people on their
5 great accomplishments as a free democracy; and

6 (3) expresses appreciation for Poland's stead-
7 fast partnership with the United States.